

RESOLUTIONS

OF

THE LEGISLATURE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE,

*In relation to slavery.*

DECEMBER 20, 1847.

Ordered to lie on the table, and be printed.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE.

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened,* That we regard the institution of slavery as a moral, social, and political evil, and as such we deeply regret its existence, and are willing to concur in all reasonable and constitutional measures that may tend towards its removal; but we are unalterably opposed to all movements having for their avowed object, or probable effect, the dissolution of our national Union, or the violation of our national constitution—a constitution and Union which *must be preserved*, and which can be preserved only by a strict adherence to the solemn compromises which lie at its foundation.

*Resolved,* That the policy to be pursued in reference to slavery, as now existing, is left by the constitution with the States within which it exists; and that it is only as citizens of such States that individuals or bodies of men can efficiently or legitimately control that policy; and that it is no part of the duty of our State government to legislate upon the subject of slavery within such States.

*Resolved,* That attempts at unauthorized interference, unfriendly attacks, and angry external agitation, by exciting the prejudices of the slaveholding communities, while they may endanger the safety of the Union, tend rather to fasten than to unloose the bonds of the enslaved.

*Resolved,* That in all territory which shall hereafter be added to or acquired by the United States, where slavery does not exist at the time of such addition or acquirement, neither slavery nor involuntary servitude, except for the punishment of crime, whereof the party has been duly convicted, ought ever to exist, but the same should ever remain free; and we are opposed to the extension of slavery over any such territory; and that we also approve the vote of our Senators and Representatives in Congress in favor of the Wilmot proviso.

*Resolved,* That our Senators in Congress be instructed, and our Repre-

sentatives requested, by all expedient and constitutional means and measures to sustain the principles herein above set forth.

MOSES NORRIS, JR.,

*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

HARRY HIBBARD,

*President of the Senate.*

Approved June 30, 1847.

JARED W. WILLIAMS, *Governor.*

A true copy—Attest:

THOMAS P. TREADWELL,

*Secretary of State.*